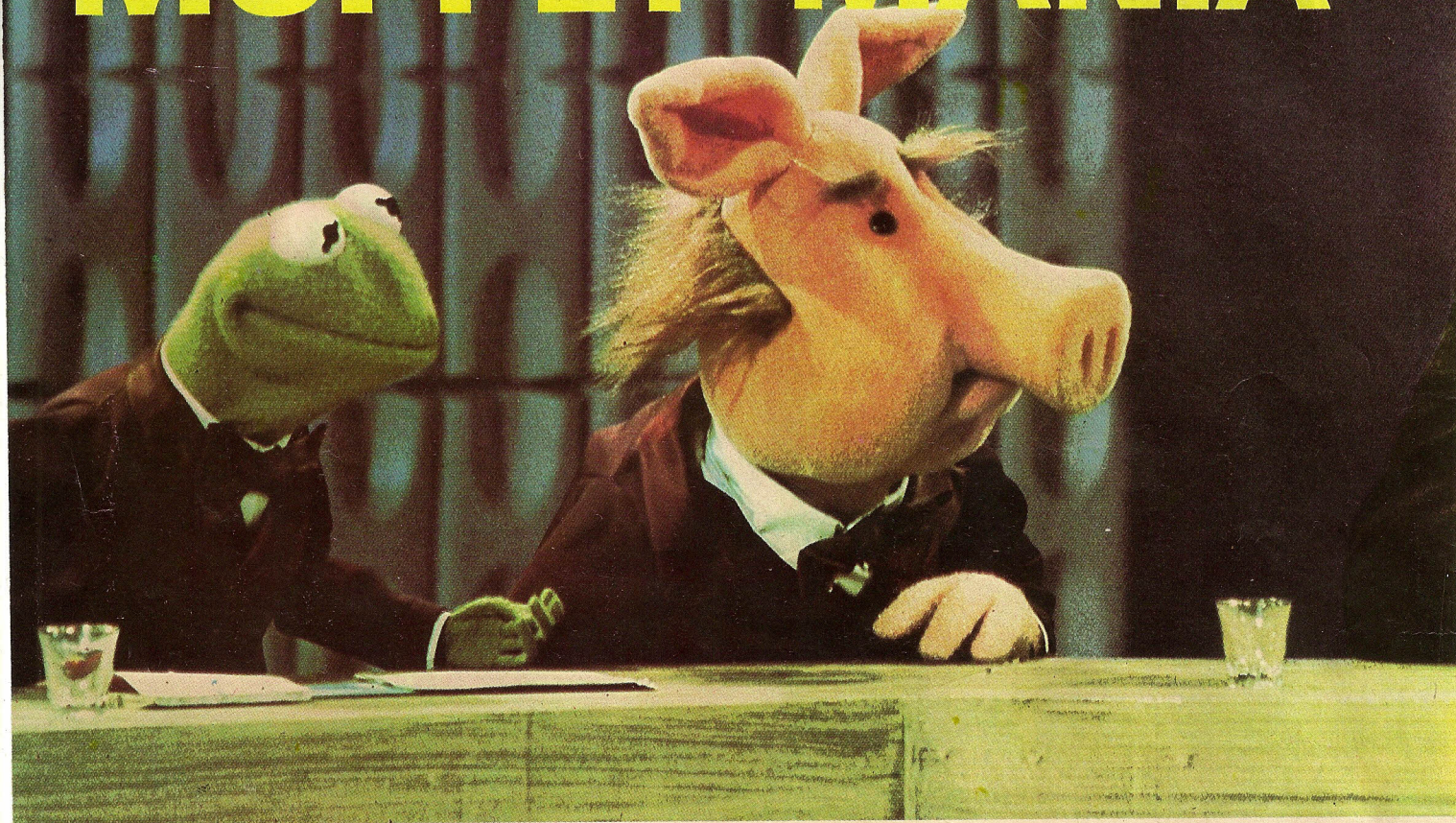


THEY'RE BRITAIN'S NEWEST SUPERSTARS, SO . . .

GET READY FOR MUPPET-MANIA



A LITTLE green frog's head suddenly appears through a window in the show's cue card, and with gusto announces: "It's The Muppet Show".

The Muppets, born on *Sesame Street*, now have their own comedy show, and through it have become cult figures in more than 30 countries.

Not only are they sensational, but lovable, multinational and durable.

The creator of these wondrous creatures American Jim Henson (Kermit's manipulator and alter ego) has made the series for British commercial television.

Though the muppets are a combination of glove puppet and marionette (hence the name) they are unique in that, with a hidden manipulator, they take on a personality.

The show is designed for just that effect. It is staged in

a theatre with its own live audience of muppets, two regular hecklers named Statler and Waldorf, a muppet orchestra and a chorus line.

The host is Kermit, a charming, slightly self-possessed frog with a marvellous charm that carries him through all manner of crises.

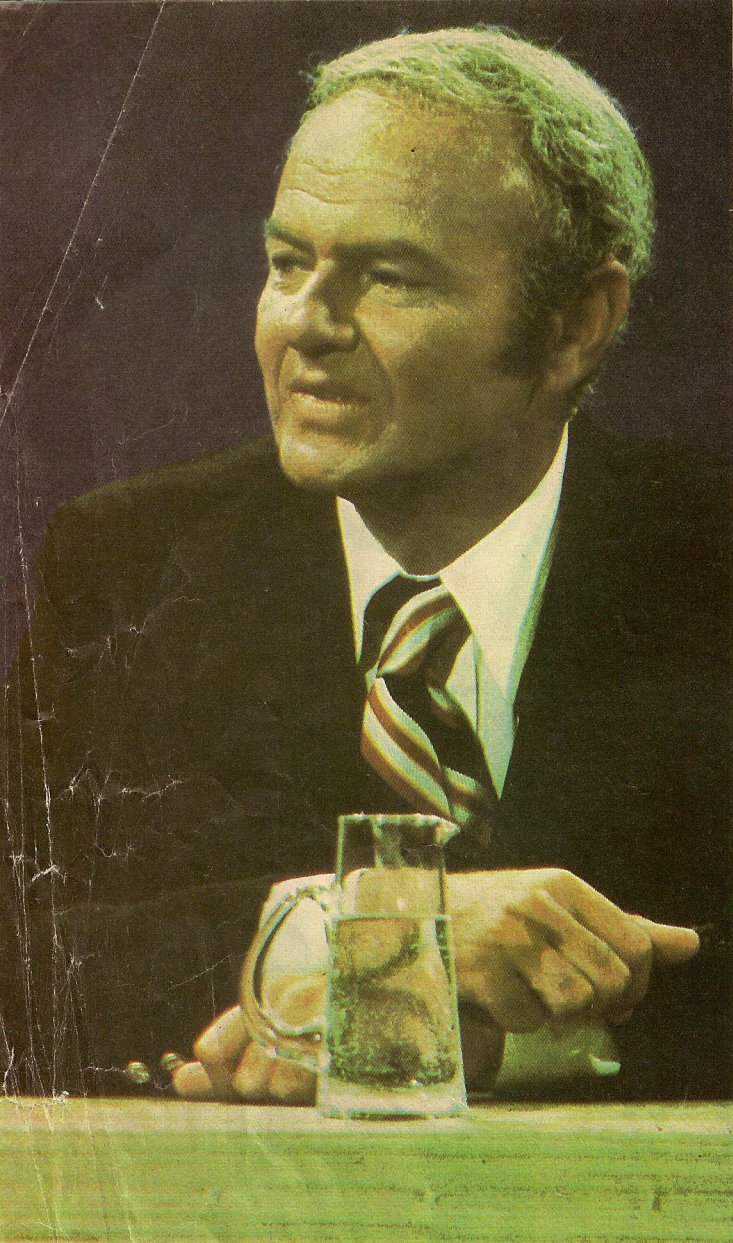
Regular muppet members of his show include Fozzie Bear, the show's resident comedian; Miss Piggy, the anti-male chauvinist; and Rowlf, the piano-playing canine.

Each week they team with an international human guest star. During the 26 shows of this first series (a new series is planned) you'll see the likes of Charles Aznavour, Candice Bergen, Joel Grey, Lena Horne, Harvey Korman, Jim Nabors, Juliet Prowse, Connie Stevens and Peter Ustinov.

Not a bad melting pot — IS IT? #

- **ABOVE:** Kermit comes to grips with guest Lyle Waggoner during the panel section of the show. Pig (in the middle) is a regular panelist.
- **BELOW:** Joel Grey, star of the movie *Cabaret*, is mobbed by Kermit, Fozzie and friends.





• ABOVE: The Muppet Show's resident comedian Fozzie Bear . . . definitely a bear for all seasons, if not for a laugh.

• BELOW: Actor-singer Jim Nabors makes some new fans in Hilda, Scooter, Great Gonzo, Fozzie and Rowlf.





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THE MIGHTY MUPPETS COME ALIVE

FEW can resist the Mup-
pets. Adults and children
alike adore the zany antics
of the colorful, bizarre and
witty little characters.

The unique part about **The
Muppet Show** is that it is a
fully-fledged variety show
staged in its own theatre. But
few people stop to consider
just how the Muppets are
brought to life.

The Muppet Show is the
result of a 21-year-old career
of Kermit, the original Mup-
pet, created by Jim Henson.

It didn't take long for the
Muppets to become interna-
tional favorites through their
appearances in such shows as
Sesame Street. But Jim has
always had one ambition for
his humorous little creatures,
and that was to present them
in a series of their own which
would appeal to adult viewers
as well as children.

The average height of the
Muppets is about three feet,
but they range from a few in-
ches tall right up to nine feet
tall. The reason for this is that
human guest stars appear on
the show with them and a
balance has to be met between
the smallest possible for the
humans and the largest sets
possible to keep the Muppets
in proportion.

The people who control the
Muppets are selected with ut-
most care and have to be able
to portray several per-
sonalities.

Jim Henson himself looks
after the star of the show,
Kermit the Frog, the piano-
playing mongrel dog Rowlf,
the electrifying rock group
leader Dr. Teeth, and the resi-
dent heckler Mr. Waldorf.

Jim's wife, Jane, who is also
a puppeteer, said: "Of all the
characters, Kermit is the
closest in personality to Jim."

Jim also makes a distinction
between being a Muppeteer
and a puppeteer. A Mup-
peteer must be a performer,
and not be restricted to any
one person's looks or per-
sonality.

A lot of effort is put in-
to building the Muppets. The

senior Muppet builder is
Donald Sahlin.

Donald began making pup-
pets when he was 11 years old
and later went on to build
puppets for such famous films
as **Tom Thumb**, **The Time
Machine**, and **The Wonderful
World Of The Brothers
Grimm**.

Donald teamed up with Jim
Henson in 1962 and was the
company's only puppet-maker
for the first seven years.

The reason that the Mup-
pets look so life-like is that
they are a cross between pup-
pets and marionettes.

A puppet is operated by
placing a hand inside it, and a
marionette is operated by
strings. A Muppet uses both of
these devices.

The Muppet Theatre itself
is a typical Victorian music
hall.

Some of the props have
been especially made for the
show, and others have been
obtained after long searches
through London.

The Muppets are brought to
life through a series of run-
ning features through the
show which are similar to the
old **Laugh-In** series.

Such features as **The Panel
Discussion**, **The Muppet News**,
At The Dance, **Soap Opera**,
The Koosbanian Phooobs, and
The Talking Houses are just a
few of the many items covered
by the lovable characters.

Kermit is, without doubt,
the main Muppet. He is the
director, stage manager,
friend and adviser for all the
other Muppets.

But others are equally as
popular. There is **Fozzie Bear**,
Gonzo The Great, **Miss Piggy**,
Wayne and Wanda, **Hilda the
wardrobe lady**, **Sam the
American eagle**, and many
more.

And for all intents and pur-
poses, the Muppets are very,
very real characters. It's im-
possible to imagine them as
anything else. #

• **OPPOSITE: Top Muppet,
Kermit the Frog interviews
the lovely Juliet Prowse.**

